

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**  
**MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATORS ASSOCIATION**  
**(Elvetham Hall Conference Centre, Hampshire, 1-2 March 2001)**

1. INRA members from the regulatory authorities in Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States met at the Elvetham Hall Conference Centre, Hampshire, from 1-2 March 2001. They were:

- Mr Laurence Williams, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and current Chairman of INRA; and
- Ms Linda Keen, President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
- Mr Andre-Claude Lacoste, Director of the French Directorate for the Safety of Nuclear Installations (DSIN)
- Mr Wolfgang Renneberg, Director General for Nuclear Safety Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety in Germany
- Dr Masaaki Mishiro, Deputy Director-General of Japan's Agency for Nuclear and Industrial Safety (ANIS)
- Mr Shojiro Matsuura, Chairman, of Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC)
- Dr Juan Manuel Kindelan, President of Spain's Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN)
- Dr Judith Melin, Director General of Sweden's Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI)
- Dr Richard Meserve, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the United States .

2. Mr Yoshihiko Sasaki, Director-General of Japan's Agency for Nuclear and Industrial Safety (ANIS) sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Mr Williams opened the meeting by welcoming Ms Keen, the new President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and Dr Mishiro, a Deputy Director-General of Japan's Agency for Nuclear and Industrial Safety (ANIS) who was deputising for Mr Sasaki.

4. To begin the meeting each member summarised the significant nuclear safety events occurring in their country since the last meeting. Aside from specific nuclear events, common issues being faced by members were human factors, transparency, heightening of nuclear safety culture in licensees, plant ageing, waste management issues, and national energy policies. In particular, Mr Williams briefed the members on the status of the BNFL progress against NII reports of February 2000; Mr Lacoste on DSIN's movements into health and waste management areas previously not part of its mandate; Ms Keen on the procedures being adopted for regulatory control of the restart of two Ontario plants, one of which has recently been leased to a subsidiary of British Energy; Dr Meserve on the problems encountered through the deregulation of the electricity market in California; Dr Melin on the status of the method and site selection for a waste repository; Dr Kindelan on the status of life extension for the oldest Spanish power reactor; Mr Renneberg on recently highlighted problems with NDT inspection QA procedures in Germany, and

Mr Matsuura and Dr Mishiro on the formation of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the creation of the Agency for Nuclear and Industrial Safety (ANIS);

5. The INRA members discussed how to take forward the five fundamental concepts, these being: (1) Effective Independence; (2) Regulatory Process; (3) Regulatory Effectiveness; (4) Powers and Sanctions; and (5) Internal Quality Assurance. Prior to the meeting a redraft of the document was issued to members for comment. It was agreed that the document would be re-titled to read "Some Thoughts on Concepts Fundamental to Nuclear Safety Regulation". At the meeting, minor changes were requested by Mr Renneberg and Ms Keen. Mr Allars was asked to make any changes that did not materially change the document, and to arrange for it to be placed on the INRA web site.

6. Members discussed whether other topics could be added to the INRA concepts papers. Topics raised were: transparency, harmonisation among INRA countries, safety culture, safety goals e.g. ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable), best practice, international benchmarking and economic conditions/cost recovery. Members agreed that transparency would be placed on the agenda for the September 2001 meeting, with each member making a short presentation on their current procedures and systems.

7. Members advised the meeting of the oversight strategies used in each country. Dr Melin circulated a paper on a study Sweden had carried out on different types of oversight strategies and asked for comments or proposals members might have for a continuation of the project to be sent to her. Dr Meserve advised that the USNRC had revised its site inspection programme to one based more on risk. This had been partly to improve consistency. He agreed to distribute details to INRA members.

8. The second day began with members discussing the way ahead on a proposed ad-hoc working group to discuss 'Regulatory Challenges Being Faced due to the Need for Enhanced Safety Culture in the Nuclear Industry'. They agreed that the group would only be temporary and would look at the key issues, providing a written report to the September 2001 INRA meeting in order to inform a discussion at the meeting. The meeting would be hosted by the UK who would contact members following the meeting requesting nominations from those who wished to participate.

9. A discussion was held regarding the regulatory challenges of a new build programme. While Japan is planning and building new reactors, very few other countries currently have plans for new build, although in several countries operators are involved in considering new reactor designs e.g. the pebble-bed reactor being developed in South Africa. The challenge faced by many regulators is a lack of experienced staff in this area due to the time passed since their original build programmes. Some regulators are sending a few of their staff to countries involved in new design/new build programmes as a way of gaining some experience in build and commissioning. Members agreed that there were not only many regulatory challenges to new build, but also detailed technical challenges that they would have to face. As licensees are investing more in a world-wide market, pressure may come to bear for regulators to agree on some international standards or safety goals.

Another problem centred on the lack of appropriate historical information on which to develop risk-based safety cases. Members discussed what current standards were available, and agreed that this may be a item for a future INRA meeting in case of pressure for internationally accepted designs and/or for greater harmonisation of regulators.

10. Members discussed the effect of regulating multi-national companies, and as stated above, a possible future requirement for greater international harmonisation between regulators. Dr Melin advised that she may be able to arrange a talk to members by a Swedish member of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at the next INRA meeting to discuss how the aircraft industry managed design and safety across national boundaries.

11. Following on from the OECD/NEA "Investing in Trust" conference in November , members discussed what initiatives they thought useful and what they each could learn. In general members were using their own web sites to publish information for public access. Some countries were ahead of others in this area, and where this was the case they believed that making information freely available in this way does help to increase trust.

12. The last item discussed by members was the Nuclear Safety Convention. Members have already started to prepare their National reports, with some well advanced. The UK agreed to host a meeting in London to discuss Nuclear Safety Convention issues and would contact members to agree a date and who will attend.

13. Under Any Other Business, Mr Lacoste updated members on the work of the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA).

14. Members agreed that the next INRA meeting will take place in The Lakeside Hotel, Cumbria, UK. As the meeting will be for one day only, delegates are asked to arrive on Sunday 23rd September 2001. The meeting will take place on Monday 24th September, with an optional visit for members to BNFL Sellafield on Tuesday 25th September. Some items for the agenda had been suggested through the meeting, however, Mr Williams asked that if members wished to add any other items they should notify the INRA Secretary, Miss White, or Mr Allars.